

REMARKS

The present Amendment cancels independent claims 1, 4, and 25. It also places claims 19, 22, and 29 in independent form, and revises several previously allowed dependent claims so that they now depend from new independent claims 19, 22, and 29. The reasons for these amendments will be discussed below.

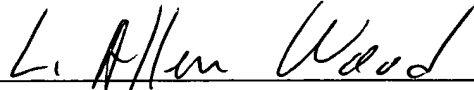
In connection with the sale of a patent portfolio that included the present application, the purchaser commissioned an extensive validity search. Published US application number 2002/0047824 and members of its patent family were among the references that turned up in the validity search. Applicant notes that application 2002 /0047824 is a continuation of a continuation of an application that matured into US patent 5,757,348, which the Examiner has already considered in connection with the present application. The search located many references. Some of them appear to be cumulative or of little relevance, and some are not even prior art. An Attachment to this Amendment lists the references located during the search (almost a hundred and fifty), after removing those references that are already of record in the present application.

An Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently. Although the Examiner is urged to review all of the references listed on the Attachment, it is recognized that almost a hundred and fifty references would be an excessive number to be included in an IDS. Accordingly, the references have been reviewed with the aim of eliminating those that seem to be of the least relevance, so that the IDS formally includes only a reduced-size subset of the references (those that are deemed most likely to be of interest).

In view of the newly found art, Applicant is canceling allowed claims 1, 4, and 25 from the present application. Applicant will pursue at least one of those claims in a continuation application. Applicant has incorporated the limitations of previously allowed claim 1 into previously allowed claim 19, and has also incorporated the limitations of previously allowed claim 4 into previously allowed claim 22, and likewise incorporated the limitations of previously allowed claim 25 into previously allowed claim 29. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of these amended previously allowed claims.

It is noted that, although this application is part of a portfolio that has been sold, the purchaser is permitting Applicant to continue prosecuting this (see the attached power of attorney and associated papers).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "L. Allen Wood", written over a horizontal line.

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ATTACHMENT TO AMENDMENT

New U.S. references located during search

2002/0047824	5,327,229	5,657,099	5,982,553	6,300,924
4,566,935	5,339,090	5,670,977	5,986,721	6,310,591
4,571,603	5,339,116	5,673,060	5,986,781	6,317,112
4,615,595	5,347,321	5,677,783	5,990,982	6,330,039
4,662,746	5,365,283	5,680,180	6,005,985	6,348,907
4,710,732	5,442,411	5,682,174	6,007,208	6,388,661
4,712,888	5,457,493	5,686,939	6,008,785	6,525,709
4,859,012	5,459,610	5,691,780	6,014,128	6,535,187
4,949,389	5,467,146	5,726,718	6,016,173	6,570,550
4,954,789	5,471,584	5,729,243	6,016,330	6,573,951
4,956,619	5,479,289	5,737,038	6,025,951	6,690,499
4,978,950	5,497,172	5,745,088	6,034,660	6,756,976
5,041,851	5,499,062	5,768,007	6,057,816	6,778,155
5,050,220	5,502,514	5,774,196	6,064,366	6,819,064
5,061,049	5,517,347	5,777,694	6,064,404	6,832,839
5,072,239	5,523,803	5,796,508	6,115,083	6,891,657
5,073,010	5,528,317	5,798,743	6,118,500	6,930,797
5,101,236	5,530,482	5,808,797	6,140,983	6,967,759
5,101,270	5,548,301	5,808,800	6,163,403	6,970,150
5,105,369	5,606,457	5,841,579	6,184,852	6,980,321
5,142,303	5,610,625	5,854,613	6,201,521	6,985,278
5,159,474	5,612,753	5,863,125	6,232,963	6,987,597
5,233,385	5,619,228	5,867,134	6,243,057	6,987,601
5,237,340	5,623,281	5,903,323	6,243,072	
5,254,980	5,625,424	5,912,758	6,259,450	
5,276,636	5,629,794	5,917,568	6,259,550	
5,278,652	5,650,832	5,930,027	6,281,949	
5,305,012	5,657,036	5,959,598	6,288,695	

New foreign references located during search

WO 9906944
WO 9726569
WO 9619794
JP 9044115
JP 5268557
EP 261896
0823698/EP-B1
0749248/EP-B1
0748128/EP-B1
0662773/EP-B1
0655724/EP-B1